

SENATE RESOLUTION 152

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the ladies of the Ossoli Circle upon the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Ossoli Circle Clubhouse.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to salute those noteworthy community organizations that, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of which we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, the Ossoli Circle is one such organization, having existed for 124 years to help women join together and improve their minds and their community; and

WHEREAS, Knoxville's oldest women's club, the Ossoli Circle is this year celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of its historic clubhouse; and

WHEREAS, designed by the famed Knoxville architect Charles Barber of Barber & McMurray, the clubhouse has hosted countless meetings, parties, plays, concerts, and weddings since its completion in 1933; and

WHEREAS, because of its meticulously crafted structure and beautiful design, the clubhouse hasn't changed much over the years; with everything in the building having been built circa 1930, the clubhouse features an auditorium that seats up to 320 people, as well as comfortable rooms, which house antiques and artwork that have belonged to the club since its earliest days; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, the clubhouse was added to the National List of Historic Places, which distinction engendered great pride among the women of the Ossoli Circle, who are tremendously thankful to have such a beautiful clubhouse with such a rich history in which to hold their meetings; and

WHEREAS, named in honor of author and nineteenth century women's rights activist Margaret Fuller Ossoli, the Ossoli Circle was the first club in the South to join the General Federation of Women's Clubs; and

WHEREAS, the club's founder, Lizzie Crozier French, was joined by such esteemed charter members as Mary Boyce Temple, Louise Woodruff, and Alice G. Coffin; and

WHEREAS, comprised of ladies who strive to better themselves and their community, the Ossoli Circle now boasts more than 200 members and offers its support to a number of local charities and organizations; as it has since 1885, the club meets on Monday of each week; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate the joyous seventy-fifth anniversary of the clubhouse, the ladies of Ossoli Circle threw a toe-tapping potluck party on May 7, 2009, which featured entertainment by the Tellico Tappers; and

WHEREAS, the Ossoli Circle Clubhouse is an historic landmark in Knoxville, serving as a monument that symbolizes time-honored tradition that is foundational in the Knoxville community and in this great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate the ladies of the Ossoli Circle upon the seventy-fifth anniversary of their historic and remarkable clubhouse, extend to them our gratitude for their many community contributions, and wish them every success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.